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**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants:	Andrew Huffman and Wesley K. Eklund	
For:	DOOR LATCH ASSEMBLY	
Serial No.:	10/605,314	Examiner: Carlos Lugo
Filed:	09/22/03	Group Art Unit: 3676
Atty. Docket:	71234-0077	Confirmation No: 2313

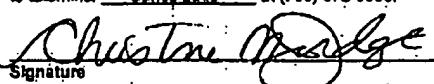
**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION (37 CFR 1.8(a))**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being:

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transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Trademark Office, to Examiner Carlos Lugo at (703) 872-9308.

Date: June 1, 2005

  
Signature  
Christine M. Judge  
(Type or print name of person certifying)

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF  
INTERVIEW**

In response to the Final Rejection mailed March 23, 2005, kindly amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.**

**Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this paper and include both attached replacement sheets and annotated sheets showing changes**

**Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.**

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### REMARKS

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CAVM  
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By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to make reference to the new FIGS. 12 and 12A which are enclosed herewith. It has also been amended to correct some clerical errors in paragraphs 28 and 34. New FIGS. 12 and 12A have been added as requested by the Examiner. These drawings were made based on the drawings and on the disclosure of the specification as filed. These drawings essentially were incorporated on page 10 of Applicants' Amendment and Response to Office Action filed January 6, 2005.

The courtesy of the telephone interviews granted to Applicants' attorney by Examiner Lugo, the Examiner in charge of this application on May 18 and 19, 2005, is acknowledged with thanks and appreciation. During the course of the interview, Examiner Lugo requested Applicants to file the new drawings 12 and 12A and further agreed that the final rejection would be withdrawn in view of the arguments which were made during the course of the interview on May 19, 2005. A summary of both interviews follows.

Prior to the interview on May 18, 2005, Applicants' attorney sent to Examiner Lugo annotated copies of sheet 1 of the drawings of the Galbreath U.S. Patent No. 3,883,164, sheet 3 of the drawings of the Smith U.S. Patent No. 3,514,142 and FIG. 4 of the drawings of the present application. Copies of these three documents are attached hereto.

During the course of the interview, these drawings were discussed. The point of the drawings is to illustrate that Applicants closed keeper rotates clockwise about the pin 212 from a latched position to an unlatched position for release of the handle 228. In the event that the keeper is stuck in the unlatched position, the bottom edge of the locking flange 180 of handle 228 will strike the second rotation stop 216 as illustrated in new FIGS. 12 and 12A to force the closed keeper from the unlatched position to the latched position.

This operation was contrasted with the closed keepers in the Galbreath '164 and the Smith '142 patents. Both of the closed keepers in these patents rotate counterclockwise from the latched to the unlatched positions and will remain in that position when the handle closes in the event that the closed keeper is stuck in the unlatched position illustrated, for example, in FIG. 11 of the Smith '142 patent.